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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 366

Offered February 7, 2019

*Commending the Orange County Agricultural Initiative.*

Patrons—Reeves, Barker, Black, Boysko, Carrico, Chafin, Chase, Cosgrove, Dance, Deeds, DeSteph, Dunnavant, Ebbin, Edwards, Favola, Hanger, Howell, Lewis, Locke, Lucas, Marsden, Mason, McClellan, McDougle, McPike, Newman, Norment, Obenshain, Peake, Petersen, Ruff, Saslaw, Spruill, Stanley, Stuart, Sturtevant, Surovell, Vogel and Wagner; Delegates: Adams, D.M., Cole, Convirs-Fowler, Delaney, Freitas, Heretick, Hope, Landes, Orrock, Rasoul, Thomas and Ware

WHEREAS, the Orange County Agricultural Initiative was established by the Orange County Chamber of Commerce in July 2018 to enhance support for the county's vast agricultural community; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Agricultural Initiative is a groundbreaking effort to create a centralized, comprehensive resource on agriculture-related funding, training and certification, education, staffing, government assistance, insurance, products, peer support, and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Agricultural Initiative pools the capabilities and knowledge of relevant local, state, and federal agencies; local, state, and national agricultural associations; farmers and agribusinesses; educational organizations such as 4-H, Future Farmers of America, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and local schools; and secondary contributors like vendors and retailers; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Agricultural Initiative has developed plans to launch an informational website and will function as an independent nonprofit organization with oversight from the Orange County Chamber of Commerce and the Orange County Farm Bureau; and

WHEREAS, Orange County is the eighth-largest contributor to agriculture in Virginia, and the success of the Orange County Agricultural Initiative will broaden and increase agricultural revenue for the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Agricultural Initiative provides a model for how other localities in the Commonwealth and throughout the United States can strengthen their commitment to agriculture; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Orange County Agricultural Initiative, an innovative program to support the Orange County agricultural community; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Orange County Chamber of Commerce as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the unique benefits of the Orange County Agricultural Initiative to the region and the Commonwealth as a whole.

INTRODUCED

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